

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| In re Application of | RICHAUD et al.                     |
| Title                | RIPPLED SURFACE STOPPER ROD SYSTEM |
| Serial Number        | 10/576,999                         |
| Filing Date          | 25 April 2006                      |
| Art Unit             | 1793                               |
| Examiner             | Kastler, Scott R.                  |
| Attorney Docket No.  | 1461 US/PCT                        |

COMMUNICATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.133

To: Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Interview Summary mailed 10 April 2009, Applicant presents the following record of the telephonic interview conducted in this application on 9 April 2009:

**PARTICIPANTS**

Examiner Scott Kastler

Attorney Thomas Clinton for Applicant

**EXHIBITS AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

Applicant's attorney presented proposed claim amendments and an Affidavit under 37 CFR 1.132.

**CLAIMS DISCUSSED**

Claims 16, 18-23, 25-27, 29 and 30 were discussed.

**PRIOR ART DISCUSSED**

PCT Patent Publication No. WO 02/081123 A2 to Richaud.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF A SUBSTANTIVE NATURE**

Proposed claims 16, 18-23, 25-27, 29 and 30 were discussed. The claims were amended to read on devices having two or more constrictions in the flow path. A copy of these proposed

claims was attached to the communication of 6 April 2009. Examiner stated that the proposed claims would change the scope of the finally rejected claims, would require further search and/or consideration, and would be entered and considered upon the filing of an RCE or continuation.

#### PRINCIPAL ARGUMENTS PRESENTED TO THE EXAMINER

1. The '123 publication teaches a device having two or more constrictions in the flow path. The pending claims were amended to recite a device having a single constriction in the flow path.
2. The device of the '123 publication differs from that of the present invention in function as well as in form. Streamlines in the '123 device are altered by flow obstruction. Streamlines in the present invention are altered by detachment from a surface as the result of flow channel widening.
3. The device of the '123 publication contains a volume in which unwanted particles are likely to accumulate. The device of the present invention has the advantage of not having such a volume.

#### OTHER PERTINENT MATTERS DISCUSSED

None

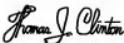
#### OUTCOME OF THE INTERVIEW

Examiner stated that the proposed amendment and supporting affidavit would change the scope of the finally rejected claims by requiring a single constriction, and would thus require further search and/or consideration. The amendment and affidavit were not entered. The Examiner suggested the filing of the amendment and affidavit along with a request for continued examination.

Date: April 21, 2009

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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